

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 9: Oregon Business Development Department Broadband Equity Access and Deployment

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Hansell

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the submission of a federal grant application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, in the amount of \$683.9 million for Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program funds.

Oregon was allocated a total of \$688.9 million in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program funding for identifying and providing broadband access to unserved and underserved communities. The Oregon Business Development Department was previously granted approval to apply for \$5 million from the grant program for initial planning. The current request is for the agency to apply for the remaining \$683.9 million to support competitive grants to eligible subrecipients, including but not limited to internet service providers, Tribes, and local governments, to ensure that infrastructure is provided in hard to serve areas. The initial plan will be refined and resubmitted by December 27th, to reflect public comment. A final proposal, which will presumably incorporate negotiations with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, will be due a year later.

OBDD anticipates that selection of subgrantees will occur in the second half of 2024. Disbursal of funds is anticipated to occur between 2025 and 2029. Up to 2% of the award may be used for grant administration. For purposes of meeting matching requirements

for grants to subgrantees, the Oregon Broadband Office will leverage subgrantee investments and maintenance of effort required by eventual contract awards. No additional positions are requested at this time.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends approval.